

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent

In re patent application of: NIVET

Serial No.: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

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Art Unit: Unassigned

For: DEVICE FOR MANAGING THE KINEMATICS ...

Dckt No.: P07520US00/dej

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

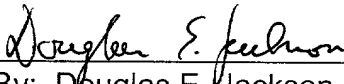
A clean version of all pending claims is provided herewith in **Attachment A**. It will be noted that all the claims have been amended relative to the previously provided version as shown by the marked up version thereof in **Attachment B** provided herewith.

REMARKS

The present amendment is made to eliminate multiple dependent claims and thus eliminate the requirement for a multiple claim fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/25/02


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ATTACHMENT A

Clean Replacement/New Claims (entire set of pending claims)

Following herewith is a clean copy of the entire set of pending claims.

1. (amended) A method of managing the kinematics of a seat, said seat having at least three seat elements that are able to move with respect to each other and said seat having at least two actuators actuatable in different directions for moving the three elements with respect to each other, wherein, when a first actuator of said at least two actuators is actuated in one direction, it includes a step of actuating a second actuator of said at least two actuators first of all in a given direction and then in the opposite direction to said given direction.
2. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the actuation of the second actuator in said given direction is effected for a first predetermined duration.
3. (amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the actuation of the second actuator in said opposite direction is effected for a second predetermined duration.
4. (amended) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the first and second predetermined durations are such that, according to the speed of movement of the second actuator in the given direction and in the opposite direction, the movement travels in both directions are substantially identical.
5. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, before the step of actuating the second actuator in said given direction, it includes a step of measuring and storing the current position of the second actuator, and wherein the actuation of the second actuator in said opposite direction is effected at most until the second actuator returns to said stored position.

6. (amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes a step of monitoring at least one variable characteristic of the force produced by the second actuator, during its use in the said opposite direction, and a step of estimating at least one predetermined evaluation criterion relating to a characteristic variable or variables, and wherein the method includes a step of actuating the second actuator in accordance with a predefined control instruction, ending its movement in the opposite direction, when at least one of the predetermined evaluation criteria is satisfied.

7. (amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein said predetermined control instruction is an instruction chosen from the group consisting of the stoppage of the second actuator and the driving of the second actuator in said given direction.

8. (amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the second actuator consumes electric current and wherein at least one variable characteristic of the force produced is a variable characteristic of the electric current consumed by the second actuator chosen from the group consisting of the intensity consumed by the actuator and a drift with respect to the time of the intensity consumed by the actuator.

9. (amended) A seat having at least three seat elements able to move with respect to each other and at least two actuators for moving the three elements with respect to each other, wherein the seat has means of actuating a first actuator of said at least two actuators in one direction and automatic means of actuating a second actuator of said at least two actuators first of all in a given direction and then in an opposite direction, when said first actuator is actuated in said one direction.

10. (amended) A seat according to Claim 9, further including:

- a movable squab;

- a back rest articulated on the squab;

- a leg rest articulated on the squab;

- a foot rest mounted so as to be able to move with respect to the leg rest; and

wherein said first actuator s adapted for the conjoint movement of the back rest and of the squab by providing the lowering of the squab when the back rest is raised up; and

wherein the second actuator is adapted for the movement of the foot rest with respect to the leg rest.

11. (amended) A seat according to Claim 9, further including:

a movable squab;

a back rest articulated on the squab;

a leg rest articulated on the squab; and wherein

said first actuator is adapted for the conjoint movement of the back rest and of the squab by providing the lowering of the squab when the back rest is raised up; and wherein

said second actuator is adapted for the movement of the leg rest with respect to the squab.

ATTACHMENT B

Marked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

1. (amended) A Method of managing the kinematics of a seat, ~~(10) said seat~~ having at least three seat elements ~~(16, 18, 22)~~ that are able to move with respect to each other and said seat having at least two actuators ~~(26, 27)~~ actuatable in different directions for moving the three elements ~~(16, 18, 22)~~ with respect to each other, ~~characterised in that wherein~~, when a first actuator ~~(27)~~ of said at least two actuators is actuated in one direction, it includes a step of actuating a second actuator ~~(26)~~ of said at least two actuators first of all in a given direction and then in the opposite direction to said given direction.

2. (amended) A Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the actuation of the second actuator ~~(26)~~ in the said given direction is effected for a first predetermined duration.

3. (amended) A Method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the actuation of the second actuator ~~(26)~~ in the said opposite direction is effected for a second predetermined duration.

4. (amended) A Method according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the first and second predetermined durations are such that, according to the speed of movement of the second actuator ~~(26)~~ in the given direction and in the opposite direction, the movement travels in both directions are substantially identical.

5. (amended) A Method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that wherein~~, before the step of actuating the second actuator ~~(26)~~ in the said given direction, it includes a step of measuring and storing the current position of the second actuator ~~(26)~~, and ~~in that wherein~~ the actuation of the second actuator ~~(26)~~ in the said opposite

direction is effected at most until the second actuator (26) returns to the said stored position.

6. (amended) A Mmethod according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1~~, characterised in that it wherein the method includes a step of monitoring at least one variable characteristic of the force produced by the second actuator (26), during its use in the said opposite direction, and a step of estimating at least one predetermined evaluation criterion relating to ~~the a~~ characteristic variable or variables, and in that it wherein the method includes a step of actuating the second actuator (26) in accordance with a predefined control instruction, ending its movement in the said opposite direction, when at least one of the predetermined evaluation criteria is satisfied.

7. (amended) A Mmethod according to Claim 6, characterised in that wherein the said predetermined control instruction is an instruction chosen from the group consisting of the stoppage of the second actuator (26) and the driving of the second actuator (26) in the said given direction.

8. (amended) A Mmethod according to Claim 6 or 7, characterised in that wherein the second actuator consumes electric current and wherein at least one variable characteristic of the force produced is a variable characteristic of the electric current consumed by the second actuator (26) chosen from the group consisting of the intensity consumed by the actuator and a drift with respect to the time of the intensity consumed by the actuator.

9. (amended) A Sseat (10) having at least three seat elements (16, 18, 22) able to move with respect to each other and at least two actuators (26, 27) for moving the three elements (16, 18, 22) with respect to each other, characterised in that it wherein the seat has means of actuating a first actuator (27) of said at least two actuators in one direction and automatic means of actuating a second actuator (26) of said at least two actuators first of all in a given direction and then in the an opposite direction, when the said first actuator (27) is actuated in said one direction.

10. (amended) A Seat according to Claim 9, ~~characterised in that it has~~further including:

a movable squab (16);

a back rest (18) articulated on the squab;

a leg rest (20) articulated on the squab (16); and

a foot rest (22) mounted so as to be able to move with respect to the leg rest (20); and ~~in that~~

wherein ~~the said~~ first actuator (27) is adapted for the conjoint movement of the back rest (18) and of the squab (16) by providing the lowering of the squab (16) when the back rest (18) is raised up; and

wherein the second actuator (26) is adapted for the movement of the foot rest (22) with respect to the leg rest (20).

11. (amended) A Seat according to Claim 9 or 10, ~~characterised in that it has~~further including:

a movable squab (16);

a back rest (18) articulated on the squab;

a leg rest (20) articulated on the squab (16); and ~~in that~~ wherein

~~the said~~ first actuator (27) is adapted for the conjoint movement of the back rest (18) and of the squab (16) by providing the lowering of the squab (16) when the back rest (18) is raised up; and wherein

~~the said~~ second actuator (26) is adapted for the movement of the leg rest (20) with respect to the squab (16).